

U.S. Application No.10/076,566

500.41209X00

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A retrieval device in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

a retrieval reservation registering unit, said retrieval reservation registering unit registering retrieval condition requests issued by users;

a duplicate integrating unit, said duplicate integrating unit combining duplicates of said retrieval condition requests requested in differing said retrieval condition requests in accordance with pre-stored rules to generate an integrated retrieval condition request to lessen a number of retrieval condition requests;

a retrieval device unit, said retrieval device unit retrieving information from the databases on the basis of contents of said integrated retrieval condition request integrating said retrieval condition requests to obtain retrieval condition results; and

an output creating unit, said output creating unit creating, on the basis of the retrieval condition requests issued by the users and said retrieval condition results, retrieval condition results data to be sent to said users when information is retrieved from said databases.

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2. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 1, wherein in said retrieval reservation registering unit, duplicates are checked and eliminated in said retrieval condition requests which exist at present and in the past so as to integrate retrieval conditions.

3. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 2, wherein said retrieval device unit edits said retrieval condition results data in a predetermined format by user by checking duplicates of the retrieval condition requests issued by users respectively and sends said edited retrieval condition results data to said users respectively on the basis of retrieval conditions desired by said users, said retrieval condition results data being acquired on the basis of said integrated retrieval conditions.

4. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 3, wherein upon editing of said retrieval condition results by user, said retrieval device unit eliminates duplicates from said retrieval condition results desired by each of said users and integrates said retrieval condition results by each of said users when there are said duplicates in contents of said retrieval condition results, so that said retrieval device unit sends edited said retrieval condition results data to said user.

5. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 2, comprising a method in which at least one previously retrieved result is held in said retrieval

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reservation registering unit, so that, when a user issues a retrieval condition request, said user selects on a basis of information freshness desired by the user to acquire a retrieval condition result from said held at least one previously retrieved result among a predetermined time interval or to execute new retrieval from original data.

6. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 3 wherein, when there are duplicates in retrieval condition requests among users and said retrieval condition requests are integrated to thereby acquire said retrieval condition results, said retrieval device unit, makes on the basis of retrieval, copies of said retrieval condition results, integrates duplicates in said retrieval condition results by each of the users, and sends thus modified said retrieval condition results to said respective users issuing said requests for said retrieval condition results data.

7. (currently amended) A retrieval device according to Claim 1, wherein said retrieval device unit acquires or sends retrieval condition results in accordance with said retrieval condition requests at predetermined intervals of time on the basis of predetermined information freshness.

8. (currently amended) A retrieval method in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

registering retrieval condition requests issued by users;

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combining duplicates of said retrieval condition requests requested in differing said retrieval condition requests in accordance with pre-stored rules to generate an integrated retrieval condition request to lessen a number of retrieval condition requests;

retrieving information from databases on the basis of contents of said integrated retrieval condition request integrating said registered retrieval condition requests to obtain retrieval condition results; and

creating, on the basis of said retrieval condition requests issued by users and said retrieval condition results, retrieval condition results data to be sent to said users, and sending said retrieval condition results data to said users when information is retrieved from said databases.

9. (currently amended) A retrieval method in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

registering retrieval condition requests issued by users;

integrating said retrieval condition requests by eliminating duplicates in said retrieval condition requests;

retrieving said databases by using said integrated retrieval condition requests and acquiring retrieval condition results;

generating duplicates of retrieval condition results from said acquired retrieval condition results;

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editing said duplicates of retrieval condition results on the basis of said retrieval condition requests; and

integrating said duplicates of retrieval results of said retrieval condition by eliminating duplicates from said retrieval condition results to be sent to each of said users on the basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval condition results.

10. (currently amended) A retrieval device in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

a retrieval reservation registering unit, said retrieval reservation registering unit registering retrieval condition requests issued by users;

a retrieval condition requests integrating unit, said retrieval condition requests integrating unit integrating said retrieval condition requests by eliminating duplicates in said retrieval condition requests;

a retrieval unit, said retrieval unit retrieving said databases by using said integrated retrieval condition requests and acquiring retrieval condition results;

a duplicate generating unit, said duplicate generating unit generating duplicates of retrieval condition results from said acquired retrieval condition results;

a retrieval condition results editing unit, said retrieval condition results editing unit editing said duplicates of retrieval condition results on the basis of said retrieval condition requests; and

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a retrieval condition results integrating unit, said retrieval condition results integrating unit integrating said duplicates of retrieval condition results by eliminating duplicates from said retrieval condition results to be sent to each of said users on the basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval condition results.

11. (currently amended) A retrieval method in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

registering retrieval condition requests issued by users;

combining said retrieval condition requests by eliminating duplicates existing in differing said retrieval condition requests;

retrieving retrieval condition requests from said databases by using said integrated retrieval condition requests;

generating duplicate retrieval condition results from retrieval condition results;

editing ones of said duplicate retrieval condition results on a basis of said retrieval condition requests; and

integrating said duplicate retrieval condition results by eliminating duplicates from said retrieval condition results to be sent to each of said users on a basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval condition results.

12. (currently amended) A retrieval device in a system having computers and databases connected to one another, comprising:

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a retrieval reservation registering unit, said retrieval reservation registering unit registering retrieval condition requests issued by users;

a retrieval condition requests integrating unit, said retrieval condition requests integrating unit combining said retrieval condition requests by eliminating duplicates existing in differing said retrieval condition requests to produce integrated retrieval condition requests;

a retrieval device unit, said retrieval device unit retrieving retrieval condition results from said databases by using said integrated retrieval condition requests;

a duplicate generating unit, said duplicate generating unit generating duplicate retrieval condition results from retrieval condition results;

a retrieval condition results editing unit, said retrieval condition results editing unit editing said duplicate retrieval condition results on a basis of said retrieval condition requests; and

a retrieval condition results integrating unit, said retrieval condition results integrating unit integrating said duplicate retrieval condition results by eliminating duplicates from said retrieval condition results to be sent to each of said users on a basis of similarity between contents of said retrieval condition results.